

34. A protected item of stationary machinery comprising a generally enclosed space for containing an oxidatively labile substance, and attached in communication thereto an inert gas device for providing an inert gas blanket to said space to assist in protecting the oxidatively labile substance from oxidation.

35. The item of claim 33, wherein said inert gas is enriched in or is pure nitrogen, argon or carbon dioxide; said device includes a membrane for separating said inert gas from air; and said device is at least one of a fuel tank, an engine crankcase, a transmission, or another gear box.

36. A protected static building structure comprising a generally enclosed space for containing an oxidatively labile substance, and attached in communication thereto an inert gas device for providing an inert gas blanket enriched in or pure nitrogen, argon or carbon dioxide to said space to assist in protecting the oxidatively labile substance from oxidation, wherein said device includes a membrane for separating said inert gas from air.

37. The structure of claim 38, which is a flour elevator or silo, wherein said inert gas is enriched in or is pure nitrogen. --

REMARKS

Please examine this application. The present amendments, which more clearly and fully describe and more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention, are fully supported by the specification, and no new matter is entered. A supplemental declaration, however, will be filed to forestall any contrary question, and to indicate that Dr. Hall executed the declarations on October 9, 1998 in anticipation of the 10th when he expected Mr. Selby to sign them.

Respectfully submitted,

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Christopher John Rudy, PTO #31873
209 HURON AVE, PORT/HURON MI 48060

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